

WHITWORTH WATER DISTRICT NO. 2

N. 10828 WAIKIKI • SPOKANE, WA 99218

(509) 466-0550

June 25, 1987

Mrs. Pat Mummey
Mr. John McBride
Mr. Keith Shepard
Spokane County Courthouse
W. 1116 Broadway
Spokane, WA 99260

JUN 27 1987

Superfund Branch

Re: Colbert Landfill Feasibility Study Report and
Southern Area Whitworth Water District Water System

Dear Commissioner's:

I am writing as a follow up to the meeting held at your office on June 8, 1987 with members of your staff, the Commissioners of Whitworth Water District and myself concerning the final Feasibility Study Report on the Colbert Landfill clean up and alternate water supply system improvements being recommended in the study.

The prime focus of the meeting was the southern area items, i.e. the well, pumping station, reservoir, transmission mains and highway inter-tie. The project, according to our engineers, estimate's \$1,469,000 of the total \$1,700,000 recommended in the Feasibility Study. The Whitworth Water District again is offering the County the opportunity to benefit from the Public Trust Fund \$1,000,000 loan to assist you in resolving the landfill problem. The District, in order to accept the loan, is seeking for an agreement from the County wherein the County would provide sufficient funds necessary for us to meet the required match funds and annual payments.

The District was seeking a commitment at the meeting because of the time line required to either accept the loan by June 30, 1987 or loose the loan.

I believe the following is a summary of County's current position:

1. Spokane County is a P.R.P. and will ultimately be responsible for the alternate water system improvements.
2. The consulting engineering firm retained by you is studying the Feasibility Study and is preparing recommendations for your response to the Feasibility Study Report.

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3. Until the Record of Decision is made by EPA SuperFund/WDOE, you are unwilling to make any commitment to Whitworth Water District even though this project phase is only a small portion of the 5.7 million dollars recommended for improvements to the water system in the Feasibility Study Report. Even though the 1% money would result in over \$1,000,000 in interest savings to the County based on the current 8% bond rate the County will pay if you sell bonds to pay for the project.
4. It was suggested by John McBride that we seek an extension on the loan commitment to allow time for the final R.O.D. ruling by EPA SuperFund. I made the inquiry to Mr. Pete Butkus and he informed me that any loan commitment extension would require revision in the WAC codes by the Public Trust Fund Board. He stated he didn't think the Board would consider such a request, nor would he recommend any extension. Mr. Butkus, in short, stated the District either accept the loan or risk loosing it.

I wish to remind the County that in the District's view the above mentioned project is a direct result of the comprehensive water plan update which was required by DSHS when the County requested that Whitworth Water District extend water lines to the west side of the Newport Highway in order to provide water to residents with contaminated wells.

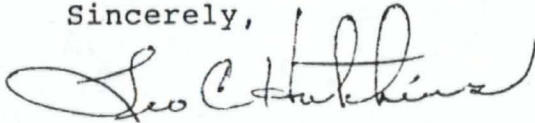
The sole purpose of the project is to correct problems created as a result of Whitworth Water District's response to public health concerns at the landfill and to enable the Whitworth Water District to be responsive to the demands which will be placed on the water system as a result of the migration of the contaminated plume.

Also, this project was discussed in detail approximately a year ago and the County felt, at that time, Whitworth Water District should be a participant in the project. I believe we have been responsive to your request. As the only entity qualified to apply for the loan within the District boundaries, the District applied for and obtained the loan. The primary purpose for our making the loan application was to respond to the contamination problem, as well as save the County and the tax payers money as a result of this low interest loan. The District does not believe that anyone will argue that a one million interest savings would not be of benefit to the County if the County takes advantage of our offer.

In summary, the Whitworth Water District Commissioners have accepted the loan, sure it is our position that it would be financially irresponsible to forfeit such a low interest loan, and it is imperative that the District be in a position to respond to the demands placed upon it. The public health concerns must be of prime importance in this entire Colbert contamination cleanup effort.

The District is proceeding with the project, however in the District's view, the ultimate responsibility for District expenditures will be that of the P.R.P.'s.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Leo C. Hutchins", with a stylized, flowing script.

Leo C. Hutchins
Administrator

cc: Jim McDevitt
Fred Gardner, WDOE
Neil Thompson, EPA
R. Edward MacDonald
Earl Edwards
Marvin Kelly
Herb Raling